

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART
B6PAGE 01 MARACA 00059 181754Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	M-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-02	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00

/057W

-----1C35A1 181754Z /38

O 131900Z MAR 92
FM AMCONSUL MARACAIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3296
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS MARACAIBO 0059

E.O. 1256: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOCI, VE
SUBJ: POST COUP SITUATION IN MERIDA

1. STUDENT DISTURBANCES CONTINUED IN THE UNIVERSITY CITY OF MERIDA FOLLOWING CAPS THIRD STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS MARCH 12. LEADERS OF THE QUOTE-MARCH 13--UNQUOTE STUDENT MOVEMENT (NAMED FOR THE DATE WHEN A STUDENT WAS SHOT TO DEATH DURING PREVIOUS DISTURBANCES) INVITED THE MOTHER OF FAILED COUP LEADER CHAVEZ TO MERIDA. DURING HER STAY SHE HAS BEEN CIRCULATING A PETITION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF HER SON. LOCAL RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN GIVING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MARACA 00059 181754Z
AMPLE COVERAGE OF HER VISIT. SHE HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER RELATIVES OF SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN THE COUP ATTEMPT.

2. U.S. CITIZENS LIVING IN MERIDA REPORT WIDESPREAD PARTICIPATION IN THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROTEST CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT. AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE TURNED OFF THEIR LIGHTS AND BEAT ON POTS AND PANS AROUND 10 PM. OUR SOURCES STATE THAT THE PROTEST LASTED WELL INTO THE NIGHT.

3. DURING MARCH 7 VISIT, TOLD P.O. FAILED

B6

UNCLASSIFIED

COUP LEADER CHAVEZ HAS COME TO REPRESENT THE GRIEVANCES UNCLASSIFIED
OF THE COMMON PEOPLE THROUGHTOUT THE COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT
GRAFFITI ON WALLS OF PRACTICALLY EVERY TOWN IN THE STATE
IN FAVOR OF THE COUP WAS REALLY AN EXPRESSION OF LOCAL
GRIEVANCES RATHER THAN SUPPORT FOR A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

4. COMMENT: THE IMAGERY OF THE MOTHER OF THE BRAVE SOLDIER
PLEADING FOR THE SON HAS A GREAT DEAL OF RESONANCE IN THE
CONSERVATIVE ANDEAN STATES. JENKS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED